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Appl. No.: 10/803,180  
Atty. Docket: CL1511ORD**REMARKS****Status of the Claims**

Claims 1, 29-36, 39-45, 56, 59-73 are pending.

By entry of this amendment, claims 1, 29-35 have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter encompassed in the canceled claims in subsequent continuation or divisional applications.

Claims 36, 40, 41, 43-45, 56, 60, 61, 63-66, 68, 69, 71-73 have been amended by this amendment. Claim 74 has been added. Thus, claims 36, 39-45, 56, 59-74 are currently under examination.

No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Support for amended claims and the new claims can be found in the specification, Table 1, Table 2, Table 5, Table 6 and the Sequence Listing.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in the instant application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, are presented with an appropriate defined status identifiers. See 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c).

**Withdrawn rejections**

Applicants would like to acknowledge and thank the Examiner for withdrawing the rejections to the claims as stated in the Office Action.

Applicants also would like to note that the RCE and accompanying submission was filed on 10/29/2007, and not 10/30/2007 as stated in the office action.

**Rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, indefiniteness**

Claims 36, 39-45, 56, and 59-65 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. The Examiner stated that it was unclear what specific content was required to be detected at the indicated position, and what nucleotide was required to have the recited functionality.

Claim 1 and its dependant claims have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice herein. The remaining claims have been amended and are clear and easily understood by one

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with ordinary skill in the art. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections.

**Rejections under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, written description**

The claims are rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, for allegedly being not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner stated that the claims encompass possibly the detection of any of 9 different nucleic acids which could be associated with an altered risk for RA. As stated in the previous response filed with the RCE, the SNP is clearly defined in the spec by the designation "R", which connotes the "A/G" SNP.

However, in the interest of expediting the prosecution of the instant application, the claims have been amended to specify the particular allele at the SNP which is associated with either increased or decreased risk, as the case may be.

Therefore, the rejections under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, for allegedly lack of adequate written description have been overcome. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections.

**Rejections under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, enablement**

The claims are rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, for allegedly being not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse.

As shown in the specification such as Table 6, the A allele (or its complement T) at the SNP is associated with decreased risk. The specification teaches that the study done was a case and control study of the patient population, and the effect conferred by a particular allele of the SNP being examined was measured by "Odds Ratio", or "OR". For example, if a reported allele had an OR less than 1, then the allele is said to be associated with protection from RA and the other allele is a risk factor for RA. See Specification at page 119, lines 18-23. In other words, the increased risk conferred by a particular allele of the SNP is relative to the decreased risk

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conferred by the other allele of the same SNP. In the case of the SNP in prosecution herein, SNP hCV163035 (rs2276864), Table 6 shows that the T allele (or its complement A) is a protective allele, thus making the other allele C (or its complement G) a risk allele.

Therefore, the rejections under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, for allegedly lack of enablement have been overcome with the claims amendment and in light of the remarks above. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections.

In conclusion, in light of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants submit that the present application is fully in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned via telephone if a phone interview would expedite the prosecution of the instant patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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